

## **PLANNING BOARD REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON ARTICLE 5**

On March 9, 2015, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Proposed Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District bylaw as in article 5 in the warrant. The Public Hearing was posted as required by law.

The Egremont Planning Board unanimously supports this proposed bylaw, because

It will help the Town of Egremont become a Green Community, and with this designation the town would receive funding for 'green' projects.

The proposed by-right use (photovoltaic installation on one specific town-owned site) would require site plan review so that the Planning Board might, if necessary, impose reasonable conditions.

It is a carefully written, well-considered proposal, that:  
protects the town and the abutters,  
requires the developer to pay for Egremont's potential expert consultants, and  
requires the developer to post a bond to cover the cost of removal and restoration if necessary.

The Planning Board welcomes this bylaw change, thanks Juliette Haas and Marj Wexler, the citizens involved in drafting the legislation and working with the Planning Board, and Jim Barry from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Resources, and wholeheartedly recommends that the Town of Egremont pass this bylaw amendment at the Annual Town Meeting.